

SPECIFICATION

Replace the abstract beginning on page 15, with the following replacement abstract.

—Some embodiments ~~of the invention~~ adaptively adjust to the current call load in a packet based virtual circuit to minimize the delay experienced by the first packets of any talk spurt for a particular active call. Some embodiments ~~of the invention~~ minimize the jitter introduced by multiplexing voice packets by smoothing out the waiting time experienced by each of the voice packets. Some embodiments ~~of the invention~~ effectively minimize jitter when the number of active calls on a virtual circuit drops off suddenly. Some embodiments ~~of the invention~~ are able to differentiate signaling packets indicating a telephony event from voice packets and give the signaling packets expedited processing with no delay contributed by the subcell multiplexing process. Other embodiments ~~of the invention~~ are described in the claims.—